London 4 June 1818

My dearest Jem –

Your Parcel which was waiting for this Letter, having been sent for by a House which was going to forward one in which they could enclose it, at a time when I was not in Fleet Street, Thomas thought it best to close it as it was. I must therefore put you to the Expense of a Letter per post to explain why I did not write in the more obvious way. – Mr Harry Thornhill (I suppose from Hessey's Description) brought me your Letter, & he paid for his Copy of Junius. I did not see him, but I believe the only Remark he made upon it was that he supposed nobody doubted of the Truth of my Conjecture. – In the Gent's Mag. of this Month some Person has written to call forth any Opposition, if such exists, to the Proofs adduced in Favour of Sir Philip Francis. This is so much what I wanted that I could almost suspect one of my own Acquaintance had done – & I am not yet sure that Woodhouse may not have been at the Bottom of it – It moves off moderately, & I have no Fear will in a few Months be out of Print, but at present I have seen so good an Effect produced by Mr Birch's kind Mention of it as he anticipated.

Endymion does not by any means please me as I had expected, but I can hardly allow others to find Fault with it, because I think they not retain a sufficient Recollection of its Beauties also, & strike a Balance of Opinion in its Favour. — The Friends, Mr Hodgson's Poem, has been sent to Retford, for you I suppose; — from the little I have yet seen of it I should think it rather heavy — Depend upon it, that the Secret of Versification is not understood by those close Followers of the Pope School, where beforehand you know where the Emphasis must fall, & which reduces the Reading of Poetry to mere mechanical Inflections of the Voice. — The Quarterly Review is to be out on Saturday. I shall then see whether my Representations in Favour of Keats have produced any Impression on the critical Heart of Mr Gifford — If he treats Endymion unfairly I think I shall be tempted to write an Answer. — As for Hazlitt he may say what he will of him — they are old Enemies of each other. — But the Lectures on the English Poets which we have just published, by Hazlitt, is a work of extraordinary Ability —

I intended to have written a longer letter, but have been so often interrupted that if I would save the Post I must conclude

We have paid Woodhouse his Bill 7/14/– I think it is, but you shall Particulars another time – With kindest Love is united to Brother Robt. & best Regards of all Friends Love I am my dearest Son

Thine ever affectionate Father

John Taylor

Mr Taylor
Messrs Johnson & Taylors
Bakewell

X